Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 5, 7, 13 and 17-19. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) An isolated TCL-1 protein comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a first nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a second nucleic acid that consists of the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 49 to 387, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 50°C in 0.015 M NaCl, 0.015 M sodium citrate, and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, and wherein said isolated TCL-1 protein binds to an antibody that also binds to the TCL-1 protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Previously presented) An isolated TCL-1 protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 from amino acid number 1 to 113.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated fragment of ~~the~~ a TCL-1 protein comprising at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues from SEQ ID NO:2, ~~of Claim 6~~ which can be ~~specifically~~ bound by an antibody which also binds to the TCL-1 protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A fusion protein comprising a TCL-1 ~~protein~~ amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino ~~acids~~ acid residues from SEQ ID NO:2 that is linked to a non-TCL-1 ~~protein~~ amino acid sequence, wherein the TCL-1 ~~protein~~ amino acid sequence is encoded by a first nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a second nucleic acid that consists of the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ

ID NO:1 from nucleotide 49 to 387, wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 50°C in 0.015 M NaCl, 0.015 M sodium citrate, and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, and wherein said fusion protein binds to an antibody that also binds to the TCL-1 protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant TCL-1 protein comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell that is transformed with a recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a TCL-1 protein, such that the TCL-1 protein is expressed by the host cell; and

(b) recovering the expressed TCL-1 ~~gene~~ protein,

wherein a first nucleic acid ~~molecule~~ consisting of said nucleotide sequence that encodes the TCL-1 protein hybridizes under stringent conditions to a second nucleic acid that consists of the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 49 to nucleotide 387, ~~and~~ wherein the stringent conditions comprise washing at 50°C in 0.015 M NaCl, 0.015 M sodium citrate, and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, and wherein said TCL-1 protein binds to an antibody that also binds to the TCL-1 protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

18. (Currently amended) An isolated TCL-1 protein derivative comprising an amino acid sequence having at least ~~70~~ 90% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence depicted [[in]] as SEQ ID NO:2, over a contiguous sequence of at least 25 amino acids, whereby said isolated TCL-1 protein binds to an antibody ~~which~~ that also binds to the TCL-1 protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (Currently amended) An isolated TCL-1 protein derivative comprising an amino acid sequence having at least ~~70~~ 90% amino acid sequence identity to the amino acid sequence depicted [[in]] as SEQ ID NO:2, over a contiguous sequence of at least 50 amino acids,

whereby said isolated TCL-1 protein binds to an antibody ~~which~~ that also binds to the TCL-1 protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

20-65. (Canceled)